

PROBLEMS FACING STRICKEN WORLD

Shall Chaos or Reconstruction in Europe Follow the Great World War?

LAND QUESTION IN RUSSIA

Natural Desire of Peasants to Participate in Ownership of Soil They Till is Root of the Revolution.

Article XVII

By FRANK CONERFORD.

In talking with people about Russia, I have discovered that most people in America have only a faint, uncertain, vague idea of the country. Czar Nicholas, the last of the self-proclaimed emperors, was monarch of 8,600,000 square miles, one-sixth of the entire land surface of the earth. The great Russian empire is spread over part of two continents, Europe and Asia. It is almost entirely confined to the cold and temperate zones.

Three seas bound it on the north—White, Barents and Kara of the Arctic; the seas of Bering, Okhotsk and Japan of the northern Pacific bound it to the east. The Baltic sea, the gulfs of Bothnia and Finland limit it to the southwest; two stuporous lines of land front separate it respectively from Sweden and Norway on the northwest, and from Prussia, Austria and Romania on the west. On the south and east the frontier has changed frequently, according to the expansion and contraction of the empire under the great, sure of political exigency and expediency. The Black sea is the principal demarcating feature on the south of European Russia. On the west side of that sea the south frontier touches the Danube for some 120 miles to the east side of the same sea it zigzags from the Black sea to the Caspian, utilizing the river Arax for part of the distance. As the Caspian is virtually a Russian sea, this frontier is said to form the next link in the southern boundary of the Russian empire, followed by Afghanistan. On the Pamirs, Russia has since 1855 been continuous with British India, but since the boundary then swings away north through Chinese Turkestan, and the north side of Mongolia, and since 1903 it has skirted the north of Manchuria, being separated from it by the river Amur.

The total length of the frontier line of the Russian empire by land is 28,000 miles in Europe and nearly 10,000 miles in Asia, and by sea nearly 11,000 miles in Europe and nearly 10,000 miles in Asia—total, 48,000 miles. The population of the empire, according to the 1915 census, was estimated at 132,152,000. According to the same census this population was distributed as follows: In European Russia, 133,700,000; in Poland, 12,125,000; in the Caucasus, 13,125,000; in Siberia, 13,125,000; in the central Asian provinces, 11,125,000; Finland, 3,125,000.

Over 80 per cent of the people of Russia are peasants. The land is their problem. It means home to them—work, life. Their one dream has been to own the land. Land ownership is their definition of freedom, their idea of happiness.

The Russian peasant has been a stranger in his own country. The man who tills the soil and lives on the land and yet never owns an acre of it is a foreigner, even though his forebears may have been native to the country. For Russia, the Russian peasant has felt this; they are simple, loving people. From the conversations I have had with Russians of the peasant class I believe that they have suffered more because they never had a chance to own their own home, their own farms, than from the denial to them of political freedom. The land question is a heart question, a heart question to them.

Crime in Land Distribution.

Some idea of the land famine in Russia is told in the startling figures showing the actual distribution of arable land, forests and meadows in European Russia. The following table is only one count to the indictment:

	Acres	Percent
Arable land	30,435,000	25
Meadows and pastures	15,483,000	14
Forests	42,512,000	39
Uncultivated	22,727,000	19
	119,157,000	100

This land in European Russia was divided among the different classes of owners as follows:

	Acres	Percent
State and imperial family	40,815,000	34
Peasants	46,675,000	39
Private owners, towns, etc.	26,523,000	22
Units for cultivation	6,664,000	54
	119,157,000	100

The condition of the peasants prior to the revolution, according to official documents, appears to be as follows: "In the 12 central governments they grew on the average sufficient for their bread for only 150 and 100 days.

One-quarter of the people have received allotments of only 2.9 acres per male, one-half of them less than 2.6 to 11.4 acres—the normal size of the allotment necessary to feed and maintain a family being estimated at 28

to 42 acres. Therefore the peasants were compelled to rent land from the landlords at fabulous prices. The aggregate value of the redemption and land tax often reached 185 to 250 per cent of the normal value of the allotment, not to speak of the taxes for recruiting, the churches, roads and local administration, chiefly levied from the peasants. The peasants have sunk deeper into debt every year. The scheme was a quicksand—the harder they worked and struggled the deeper into debt they fell. Increasing arrears have driven one-fifth of the inhabitants from their houses. Every year more than half the adult males (in some districts three-quarters of the men and one-third of the women) are forced to quit their homes and wander throughout Russia in search of work. In the government of the black earth region, the state of matters is hardly better.

The phrase "class distinction" was more than rhetoric in Russia—it was part of the chains. It handicapped development, it handicapped the door of opportunity. The great mass of the people, 81.9 per cent peasants; 1.0 per cent nobility; 0.9 per cent the clergy; 0.3 per cent the burghers and merchants; 61 per cent the military; thus 147,000,000 of the Russians were peasants.

The slavery in Russia consecrated by law in 1653 was partly abolished in 1861. The Act only pretended to liberate the serfs. Even under the best landlords conditions continued to be terrible. Household servants or dependents attached to the personal service of their masters were the least. They joined the town proletariat. The peasants were given allotments of arable land. These allotments were not given to the individuals, they were given over to the rural commune called the Mir, which made responsible as a whole for the payment of allotments. It was a sort of land communism, except that the Mir did not pass over to the Mirs. The enormous charge against the land made them tenant serfs. The Mir was a mortgaged community. The redemption charge was not calculated on the value of the land, but on the compulsory labor of the serfs. The enslavement of the peasant was recognized in the Act which precluded emancipation.

Peasants Systematically Cheated.

Many proprietors of land saw to it that the allotments did not give the peasants the needed pasture lands around their homes. This crafty calculated scheme was to give the Mir a vast pasture land from the landlords at any price. The landlords held them up.

It was only as late as 1904 that the landlord was forbidden by law to effect corporal punishment on the peasant. Even this law was winked at and the practice of treating human slaves as brutes treated their domestic animals, continued. The peasant was not paid the cheapest for his labor. There were plenty of peasants. Notwithstanding the barbaric life in Russia, the population continued to grow.

The peasants' only participation in government was in the assembly called the Mir. With its quaint customs, it is of immemorial antiquity. The assembly of the Mir consisted of all the peasant householders of the village and the cheapest for his labor. These elected a head man and collector of local taxes. It was the nearest Russian peasants ever got to freedom. It was the clearing house for the troubles, a socialism of rogues, a totality of local self-government which gave no rights; it simply provided a means of co-operating in burden bearing.

(Copyright, 1919, Western News Service, Inc.)

HARD AT WORK IN BELGIUM

Coal Mining and Other Industries Are Being Rapidly Put on a Normal Basis.

The Belgian coal mines are now turning out about 80 per cent of the normal production. They supply nearly all the coal needed in Belgium. It is a matter of fact that the Belgian coal industry, while some 350,000 tons of coal a month are exported to France. The great glass industry of the country, which before the war gave work to many thousands, is rapidly regaining its former prosperity, and only quite recently the French ministry of reconstruction gave an order to a single Belgian firm for 2,000,000 square meters of window panes for the devastated regions. The result of all this is that whereas, at the time of the signing of the armistice, the French franc was worth 1.10 or even 1.15 francs in Belgium, it is now worth 100 francs. Belgium, moreover, is very far from confining her efforts to France. Great Britain is already a considerable importer of Belgian goods, while the United States recently placed an order in Belgium for more than 300,000,000 francs worth of glassware.

Large-Hearted Doughboys.

The children played a large part in the American army's Christmas in France. At the artillery camp at Malin, for example, it was a top sergeant who said, ten days or so before the day:

"Say, fellows, these poor little village kids haven't had much Christmas in their lives, have they, now? What do you say we take up a collection and see what we can do?"

The idea took in a flash. And they did so well, giving as they always gave, with both hands, that the total sum was amazing.

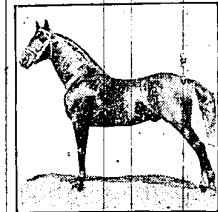
"Why," some one hazarded, "I reckon we could hand those little shavers pretty near anything they want, with all this wad to spend."

LIVE STOCK

USEFUL ANIMALS FOR FARMS

Department of Agriculture Assisting in Improvement of Horses in Range Country.

The United States department of agriculture has bred and developed several stations in its horse-breeding project now located at the U. S. Wyoming Horse Breeding Station, Buffalo, Wyo. The stallions will be leased to private breeders and community breeding clubs for the breeding season. In this way it is proposed to assist in the improvement of the light horse stock of the range country where



Defender, Ten-Year-Old Bay Stallion—Photograph Taken at Wyoming State Fair.

stallions of merit are not available and in those sections where light horses are preferred.

The number of available stallions is limited to about 10, is only the best of those produced have been retained or will be allowed to go out for public service. These stallions range in height from 15 hands 1 inch to 16 hands 2 inches, weight from 1,500 to 1,400 pounds, and in nearly all cases are tried sires and known producers. The object of the work at the station in which these horses are being produced is the preservation and development of a utility horse suitable for range and farm conditions. The stallions especially emphasized are the development of size, soundness, tractability, action, and stamina, in a useful animal which can be used under the saddle, on the road, or in the field.

Persons interested should address correspondence to the Wyoming Horse Breeding station, Buffalo, Wyo.

EARLY BREEDING ADVOKED

Lambs Born in Spring Get One or Two Months of Mother's Milk Before Fighting Worms.

Early breeding. In order that lambs may be old enough to offer strong resistance to worms when they are turned on pasture, is advocated by the Nebraska College of Agriculture. Lambing in October and November will lamb in March and April. This will give the lambs from one to two months on their mothers' milk and on grain before they have to start worms. The principal objection to early lambing is the necessity of having a good lamb. However, the expense and trouble from early lambing are more than offset by the ability of the lambs to survive the worm season. Extra feeding was during the breeding season is urged. Well-fed ewes are more likely to produce twins.

Indignant.

In the corner of a drug store which bears the sign, "C. W. Pugh & Company," the circulating library of a small town is kept.

One day Fred, aged nine, came home very indignant, after reading of a rowed book, and said he would never go to the library again because the man laughed at him.

His mother said: "Oh, no; the man didn't laugh at you. What did you do?"

And Fred replied: "I didn't say nothing. I just said: 'Mr. Pugh, I brought your book back.'"

The street barber reaps a golden harvest every time he faces a crowd that wants something for nothing.

Guests of a day never know how a husband and wife really get along together.

LIVE STOCK NOTES

Quarantine your hog lots when cholera is in the family.

Every pig lot at fairing time lessens the chance of profit.

Alfalfa meal fed to breeding hogs helps to save high-priced litters.

Young boars should be separated from their mates at or before five months old.

Don't be afraid to sit up all night when the pigs are coming. You will be well paid for it.

Keep cholera away by having everything clean about the yards and buildings. Use disinfectants.

In these days of high-priced feed it does not look like good business to feed brood sows all winter and then through carelessness or neglect permit them to lose most of their pigs.

6% First Mortgage

\$100 and \$500 Real Estate Serial Notes of Superior Merit

"In the present period of the readjustment of the country's industrial and commercial affairs it is well for investors to exercise the utmost caution in the selection of investments."

Investors seeking the maximum of interest, in keeping with business prudence, with the minimum of risk, should obtain particulars concerning these attractive investments.

The notes are owned by the Mercantile Trust Company, having

The Mercantile Trust Company is a member of the Federal Reserve System, and by reason of such membership is under the supervision of the United States Government. This means that every loan we make, including "First Mortgage Real Estate Serial Loans," is subject to examination by Government Bank Examiners. These loans are also examined by the St. Louis Clearing House Bank Examiners and the official Bank Examiners of both the State of Missouri and the State of Illinois.

Descriptive circular sent on request.

Address all inquiries or orders for real estate notes to the Real Estate Loan Department.

Mercantile Trust Company

Member Federal Reserve System

ST. LOUIS

MISSOURI

Capital and Surplus \$10,000,000

GREAT "FIXER" IS LARDNER

According to Chauncey Depew, Humorist is "All to the Good" as a Diplomat.

Chauncey M. Depew is a great admirer of Lord Lardner and delights to relate an anecdote concerning the well-known sport writer and humorist. It was at a club in Philadelphia and a certain gentleman whom the crowd was trying to entice into spending the evening there declared he could not remain because he had promised his wife he would come home.

"If I fix it for you," said Lardner, and darted into the phone booth. Presently he emerged, shouting:

"It's all right, old chap, your wife says you can stay!"

"How in the world did you manage to bring her round?" asked the amazed man.

"Easy," replied Lardner. "I told her you were coming and she said, 'I bring you home or keep you here, and she said:—'

"You can have him, Mr. Lardner."

His Strange Way.

"Mr. Gloom," gently said the candidate for alderman, "I understand that you have been saying that I am so big a fool you wouldn't vote for me even if there was nobody else running?"

"You are an even bigger fool than I thought," smiled J. Fuller Wilson, "if you rush around notifying people every time you happen to understand something."—Kansas City Star.

Heard in the Library.

Chief Librarian—Why don't you stop talking when I look at you?

Ever-Cheerful—Lady, I ain't no clock.

Natural Suggestion.

"I had a touchy case occur to me today." "How much were you touched for?"

Many young people fall in love because they are just as foolish as older people.

Common sense is more uncommon than otherwise.

Many a great one is erected on a small foundation.

Everything comes to the man who pays cash.

Each Cup Of INSTANT POSTUM

contains the same uniform quality of goodness that makes this table beverage so popular. Make it strong or mild as you prefer by varying the quantity used. No wonder so many prefer it to coffee, not alone on account of taste but because of its abundant healthfulness.

There's a Reason for POSTUM

Made by Postum Cereal Co. Battle Creek, Michigan.

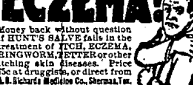
Cuticura Soap

The Healthy Shaving Soap

Cuticura Soap leaves skin without irritation.

Money back without question if CUTICURA SOAP fails to relieve the condition of ECZEMA, RINGWORM, ITCHING, SCALD HEAD, etc.

Get a drug dealer, or direct from CUTICURA Soap Co., Boston, U.S.A.



Harvest 20 to 45 Bushel to Acre Wheat in Western Canada

Think what that means to you in good hard dollars with the demand for wheat at high prices. Many farmers in Western Canada have paid for their land from a single crop. The same success may be yours. For you can buy on easy terms, 20 to 45 bushels to the acre.

Farm Land at \$15 to \$30 an Acre

located in thriving towns, good markets, railroads—land of a kind which grows 20 to 45 bushels of wheat to the acre. Good grazing lands at low prices convenient for stock raising. The same success may be yours. For you can buy on easy terms, 20 to 45 bushels to the acre.

Learn the Facts About Western Canada

—Low land prices, good schools, churches, and social relationships, a prosperous and industrious people. For illustrated literature, maps, description of land opportunities in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, reduced to one-third price, write Department of Immigration, Ottawa, Can., or

W. J. McWINEY, 175 Jefferson Avenue, Detroit, Mich.

Canadian Government Agent.

DAISY FLY KILLER PLACED ANYWHERE ATTRACTS AND KILLS ALL FLIES, including house flies, stable flies, etc.

It is a sure and certain remedy for all species of flies, and is the only one that will kill them without doing any harm to the animal or the human.

It is a sure and certain remedy for all species of flies, and is the only one that will kill them without doing any harm to the animal or the human.

It is a sure and certain remedy for all species of flies, and is the only one that will kill them without doing any harm to the animal or the human.

It is a sure and certain remedy for all species of flies, and is the only one that will kill them without doing any harm to the animal or the human.

It is a sure and certain remedy for all species of flies, and is the only one that will kill them without doing any harm to the animal or the human.

It is a sure and certain remedy for all species of flies, and is the only one that will kill them without doing any harm to the animal or the human.

It is a sure and certain remedy for all species of flies, and is the only one that will kill them without doing any harm to the animal or the human.

It is a sure and certain remedy for all species of flies, and is the only one that will kill them without doing any harm to the animal or the human.

It is a sure and certain remedy for all species of flies, and is the only one that will kill them without doing any harm to the animal or the human.

It is a sure and certain remedy for all species of flies, and is the only one that will kill them without doing any harm to the animal or the human.

It is a sure and certain remedy for all species of flies, and is the only one that will kill them without doing any harm to the animal or the human.

It is a sure and certain remedy for all species of flies, and is the only one that will kill them without doing any harm to the animal or the human.

It is a sure and certain remedy for all species of flies, and is the only one that will kill them without doing any harm to the animal or the human.

It is a sure and certain remedy for all species of flies, and is the only one that will kill them without doing any harm to the animal or the human.

It is a sure and certain remedy for all species of flies, and is the only one that will kill them without doing any harm to the animal or the human.

It is a sure and certain remedy for all species of flies, and is the only one that will kill them without doing any harm to the animal or the human.

It is a sure and certain remedy for all species of flies, and is the only one that will kill them without doing any harm to the animal or the human.

It is a sure and certain remedy for all species of flies, and is the only one that will kill them without doing any harm to the animal or the human.